LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 1 August 1985

2. (Lowcock) HARD DISKS FOR FIELD BUREAUS- [redacted] and I met today on the subject of the external hard disks SDS is planning to send to the field for use with the revised PC program for lateral services. CRW has advised that the only external hard disk which can be guaranteed to fulfill all of the functions required for the new program is the Iomega Bernoulli box, priced at $2,895, approximately the cost of a new PC with an internal hard disk. Options other than the external hard disk include buying internal disks for the bureaus. These would have to be installed by bureau technicians and would entail some danger of the PC's being damaged in the process or the installation not working properly. STAT

The second option is purchasing one PC with internal hard disk for each of the 12 bureaus which would need them (Okinawa, London and Vienna already have hard disks, and FEB will be supplying the four Far East bureaus with PC's with internal disks in early FY-86 as part of the program for replacing Extel ASR's in bureau commcenters). One drawback to this option is that each bureau would only get one PC with internal disk, and thus would not have a backup. This is a minor problem since PC's would be brand new. Also, with FEB's plan for replacing the Extels with PC's, bureaus would not be permanently without backup. A major benefit of this option is that it would give all bureaus one PC specifically for their commcenters, something which all do not now have.

My recommendation, in coordination with [redacted] is to go with this latter option. Any final decision will have to wait pending close coordination with Chief, FEB, who returns from his TDY in mid-August, to ensure we are buying the same equipment and going in the same direction in supplying bureau commcenters. Chief, ESG may also have some input on this communications-related issue also once he settles in. [redacted] has checked with E&PS and has tentative assurances that the 30K needed for this project is available. STAT STAT

(cc: C/E&PS, C/SDS, C/FEB)